



Bryce Yokomizo
Director

February 6, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director
Department of Public Social Services

Robert Ryans, Director
Department of Community and Senior Services

**SUBJECT: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MOTION - DECEMBER 3, 2002 - DEVELOP
PLAN TO SUSTAIN FUNDING IN FISCAL YEAR 03-04 FOR CalWORKS
YOUTH JOBS PROGRAM SERVICES**

Pursuant to your Board's December 3, 2002 instruction, this is to report on our coordinated efforts to sustain the CalWORKs Youth Jobs Program beyond June 30, 2003. We are aggressively pursuing potential funding sources with the Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), and New Directions Task Force departments that now serve or could potentially serve this population if the Youth Jobs Program is not sustained. We have developed a plan that pieces together a blended funding approach that could sustain the program through FY 03-04 at the current or at a reduced level of funding. We have also included our strategy for pursuing this program's long term viability.

It is critical that we secure 2003-04 funding for Youth Jobs by April 2003. This would allow for existing CalWORKs Youth Jobs agencies to develop the infrastructure needed to support a summer youth program which peaks in July through September.

FUNDING STRATEGIES FY 03-04

Performance Incentives

Your Board has sustained funding for the current CalWORKs Youth Jobs Program since 2000/01 using Performance Incentives funds. Through the CalWORKs/LTFSS Funding Recommendations Process, currently in progress, DPSS is recommending that

a portion of the Performance Incentives funds that are projected to be unspent as of June 30, 2003, be allocated for Youth Jobs through September 2003 at a percentage of the total current \$9.8 million annual allocation for CalWORKs Youth Jobs. If approved through this process, this recommendation will accompany the full set of recommendations, scheduled to go forward to the Board for approval at the end of February.

However, there are current uncertainties regarding the County's ability to carryover and use unspent Performance Incentives into FY 03-04, that could have a significant impact on the CalWORKs/LTFSS funding recommendations as a whole. This possible scenario has prompted us to determine the availability of other resources with the eight Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs).

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Carryover Funds

On February 13, 2003, CSS will be presenting a proposal to the Youth Council and the County Workforce Investment Board that Workforce Investment Act (WIA) youth carryover funds, previously set aside by the Youth Council to fund a Request for Proposal for older youth, be used instead to supplement existing WIA youth program contracts. WIA funds comprehensive year-round youth services, of which employment is only one component of a myriad of required services based on a needs assessment. As Youth Jobs is primarily a summer employment program, youth enrolled in a program funded by carryover funding could begin their participation in the program with the summer employment component first, prior to the receipt of other required services. Should the Youth Council and the Workforce Investment Board agree, it is important to note that these funds would cover WIA-eligible youth in the Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Area only.

CSS is engaging the other seven WIBs as well in our search for additional resources. They have scheduled a conference call next week and will facilitate a discussion to identify other resources that could be directed to a summer youth employment program.

LONG TERM PLANNING

CSS and DPSS are exploring the development of a Youth Employment Collaborative to support integrated summer employment services for youth in Los Angeles County, in partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Community Development Commission.

We have identified two potential funding sources for this:

- Use of a portion of the Community Development Block Grant Program's (CDBG) 15% public service fund to support youth programs and,
- Use of federal Food Stamp and Employment Training (FSET) funds to pay for a portion of the youth wages/stipends. There are some challenges to accessing these funds. Federal FSET funds cannot be used for youth who are receiving a CalWORKs grant. It would also require a 50% match of nonfederal funds that are not already matching other federal funds. At present, we have not been able to identify any nonfederal funds which could be utilized for this match, but we will continue to search.

WIA REAUTHORIZATION

The Workforce Investment Act is up for reauthorization this year and while the County's Legislative plan is to pursue greater flexibility, it is unlikely that reauthorization would allow using WIA funds to support a stand alone summer youth program. The current WIA youth programs support summer youth employment programs but only in conjunction with other core services that are generally provided over a sustained period of time based on the assessed needs of the participating youth. However, even if reauthorization resulted in a WIA stand alone summer program it would not be implemented in FY 03-04.

NEXT STEPS

We will provide you with a follow-up status report in 30 days and a final report in 60 days.

BY:RR:sg

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Director, Dept. of Community and Senior Services